

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 HA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00
PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01
SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 /094 W
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R 020815Z MAY 78
FM AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7617
INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN
AMCONSUL DURBAN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE JOHANNESBURG 1115

CAPE TOWN ALSO FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINS, PINT, SF
SUBJ: AZANIA PEOPLES ORGANIZATION SPAWNED AS LATEST BLACK
CONSCIOUSNESS GROUP

1. THE LATEST BLACK CONSCIOUSNESS ORGANIZATION, THE AZANIA PEOPLE'S ORGANIZATION (AZAPO), PURPORTING TO REPRESENT ALL THE BLACK PEOPLES OF SOUTH AFRICA, EMERGED THIS WEEKEND AFTER A MEETING ATTENDED BY 60 REPRESENTATIVES FROM DIFFERENT PARTS OF SOUTH AFRICA. THE PRINCIPLES OF THE GROUP ARE STILL SOMEWHAT VAGUE, BUT INCLUDE A NATIONAL BASE, FOCUS ON BLACK WORKERS, OPPOSING ETHNIC ORIENTED INSTITUTIONS, AND WORKING TOWARDS A COMMON EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM.

2. WHILE INITIAL MEETING OF AZAPO ELECTED INTERIM COMMITTEE AND LAID DOWN BROAD GUIDELINES, ORGANIZATION STILL APPEARS IN FORMATIVE STAGE, WITH SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES AND LEADERSHIP STILL TO BE DECIDED.

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NONETHELESS, AZAPO APPEARS TO BE AMBITIOUS ATTEMPT ON PART OF SOWETO ACTION COMMITTEE TO ENCOMPASS AND EXPAND EARLIER GOALS OF SUCH GROUPS AS BLACK PEOPLE'S CONVENTION, SOUTH AFRICAN STUDENTS ORGANIZATION, AND SOWETO COMMITTEE OF TEN. NONETHELESS, AS SAC HAS NOT REALLY CAUGHT ON AS THE SUCCESSOR GROUP TO BPC AND COMMITTEE OF TEN, AZAPO'S SELF-STATED CLAIMS MAY PROVE OVERLY AMBITIOUS AT THIS STAGE.

3. AZAPO DECLINED TO ALLOW WHITE REPORTERS TO COVER MEETING,
ALLOWING BLACK JOURNALISTS ONLY. GROUP ALSO REFUSED TO ALLOW
M. MOERANE (FORMER WORLD EDITOR) TO ATTEND BECAUSE OF HIS
PARTICIPATION IN RECENT COMMUNITY COUNCIL ELECTION.
JOHNSON

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Message Attributes

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